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COMMENTS AND OPINIONS OF STUDENTS AT ABINGTON HIGH SCHOOL NORTH CAMPUS CONCERNING THE LIBRARY, A REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF A STUDENT OPINIONNAIRE.

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A RANDOMLY SELECTED SAMPLE OF 163 NINTH AND TENTH GRADE STUDENTS WAS ASKED, IN A SERIES OF QUESTIONS, TO EXPRESS THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SCHOOL LIBRARY. THE RESPONSES TO EACH STATEMENT WERE TALLIED AND PRESENTED AS A NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE. IN GENERAL IT WAS FOUND THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS SPEND SOME OF THEIR INDEPENDENT STUDY TIME IN THE LIBRARY. IT WAS ALSO FOUND THAT MOST OF THE STUDENTS FELT THE LIBRARIANS DID NOT KNOW THEM AS INDIVIDUALS OR COULD GIVE THEM MUCH INDIVIDUAL HELP. STUDENTS LIKED THE LIBRARY'S SELECTION OF MATERIALS, PREFERRED THE STUDY ATMOSPHERE, AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE A GREATER SEATING CAPACITY IN THE LIBRARY. IT IS CONCLUDED THAT STUDENTS ARE USING AND ENJOYING THE LIBRARY. HOWEVER, STUDENTS FEEL A NEED FOR MORE FACILITIES, INCLUDING MATERIALS, TYPEWRITERS, SEATS, RECORDS, AND LANGUAGE LABORATORIES. RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE MORE MONEY FOR ADDITIONAL MATERIALS, INCREASED ADULT HELP TO ALLOW MORE STUDENTS IN THE LIBRARY AND TO GIVE THE LIBRARIANS MORE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH STUDENTS, AND MORE TIME SPENT ON ORIENTING STUDENTS TO THE TOTAL LIBRARY RESOURCES AVAILABLE. THE OPINIONNAIRE USED FOR THE STUDY IS APPENDED. (AUTHOR/JB)

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COMMENTS AND OPINIONS OF STUDENTS AT ABINGTON HIGH SCHOOL NORTH CAMPUS CONCERNING THE LIBRARY

A Report on the Results

of a Student Opinionnaire

by

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I THE PROBLEM

Abington North Campus is an innovating school and as such makes great demands upon its library facilities.

Student attendance is high (1377 per day average) partly because of modular scheduling and the changing of students in the library every module for seventeen modules a day.

The administration and the library staff were interested in finding out how the library was meeting these demands.

The librarians felt that a survey of a random sample of the student body might reveal answers to the following questions.

What is the student attitude toward the library?

For what reasons are the students using the library?

What library facilities do they use most?

What suggestions would the students have for improving the library services?

II METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

Method and Proceedure

The opinionnaires were given to randomly selected groups of English classes from honors to three ability. Directions for the opinionnaire were explained by the English teacher and students were to leave the form unsigned. One hundred and sixty three students were questioned, seventy-six tenth grade students and eighty-seven ninth grade students.

Measurement of Variables

The opinionnaire was designed to survey the opinions of both ninth and tenth grade students and also to uncover any distinctive differences between their opinions by grade levels. The form was given the first part of January after the ninth grade students had had time to adjust to their new surroundings.

Methods of analysis

The opinionnaire consisted of ten (10) questions. Opposite each question students had a choice of four responses categories designating the

amount of time spent in the library (see Appendix). Following the ten questions there was space provided for students to respond to the following two questions.

(1) What do you like most about the library?

(2) In your opinion how can the library be improved?

Unfortunately, most students did not fill in the introductory material before responding to the questionaire and statistics could not be compiled by ability groups. The statistics, therefore, represent the opinions of a mixed ability group.

III PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

TABLE I

RESPONSE OF NINTH GRADE STUDENTS TO LIBRARY OPINIONNAIRE

	MUCH		SOME		LITTLE		NOT AT ALL	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
1. When you are in the library, how much of your time is spent reading books and magazines?	16	18.4	41	47.1	22	25.3	8	9.2
2. When you are in the library, how much difficulty do you have in finding necessary materials?	8	9.2	22	25.3	40	46.0	17	19.5
3. How much of your independent study time do you spend in the library?	16	18.4	41	47.1	23	26.4	7	8.1
4. Do you ask the librarians for help if problems arise concerning library materials?	9	10.3	23	26.4	29	33.3	26	30.0
5. How much do you use the library for research?	19	21.8	29	33.4	23	26.4	16	18.4
6. Do you enjoy using records, tapes, and film strips in the library?	8	9.2	16	18.4	12	13.8	51	58.6
7. How much time do you spend doing homework in the library?	3	3.4	13	14.9	18	20.7	53	61.0
8. When you are in the library, how much of your time is spent using the Library Language Lab?	9	10.3	19	21.8	12	13.8	47	54.1
9. Do you feel your library time is used wisely?	27	31.0	43	49.5	8	9.2	9	10.3
10. Do you feel the librarians know you as an individual and can give you individual help?	9	10.3	15	17.2	16	18.4	47	54.1

Total Number Responding - 87

Analysis of TABLE I

Over sixty-five percent (65%) of the ninth grade students claimed to have had little difficulty in locating necessary materials and approximately two thirds did Not see (or were reluctant to ask) the Librarians for help when any problems arose concerning library materials.

These students appeared to use the library most for conducting research or for reading books and magazines.

Apparently very little time in the library was spent using audio visual materials, the language labs, or in doing homework.

Eighty percent (80%) of the ninth grade students felt they used the library wisely, but seventy-two percent (72%) felt that they were practically unknown to the librarians.

TABLE II

RESPONSE OF TENTH GRADE STUDENTS TO
LIBRARY OPINIONAIRE

	MUCH		SOME		LITTLE		NOT AT ALL	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
1. When you are in the library, how much of your time is spent reading books and magazines?	24	31.6	34	44.7	12	15.8	6	7.9
2. When you are in the library, how much difficulty do you have in finding necessary materials?	7	9.2	14	18.4	42	55.3	13	17.1
3. How much of your independent study time do you spend in the library?	21	27.6	35	46.1	17	22.4	3	3.9
4. Do you ask the librarians for help if problems arise concerning library materials?	16	21.1	36	47.3	13	17.1	11	14.5
5. How much do you use the library for research?	29	38.2	25	32.8	18	23.7	4	5.3
6. Do you enjoy using records, tapes, and film strips in the library?	11	14.5	17	22.4	20	26.3	28	36.8
7. How much time do you spend doing homework in the library?	8	10.5	18	23.7	21	27.6	29	38.2
8. When you are in the library, how much of your time is spent using the Library Language Labs?	4	5.3	8	10.3	16	21.1	48	63.1
9. Do you feel your library time is used wisely?	33	43.5	28	36.8	9	11.6	6	7.9
10. Do you feel the librarians know you as an individual and can give you individual help?	11	14.5	19	25.0	15	19.7	31	40.8

Total Number Responding - 76

Analysis of TABLE II

The tenth grade students seemed to be rather well oriented to library use, since over seventy-two percent (72%) of them had little difficulty in locating necessary materials and two thirds sought the librarians for help when any problems arose concerning library materials. (See statements 2 and 4.)

These students appear to use the library most for reading books and magazines or for doing research, according to their responses to statements 1 and 5. Thirty-one percent (31%) of the students reported spending much of their time in the library reading books and magazines, while almost forty-five percent (45%) spent some of their time in the same manner.

Thirty-eight percent (38.2%) of the students used much of their time for research, while thirty-two percent (32.8%) used some of their time.

More than one half of the students made little, if any use of the records, tapes and filmstrips available. Approximately eighty percent (80%) spent little or no time in the Library Language Labs. The great majority of students (82%) felt they used their time in the library wisely.

TABLE III

COMPOSITE OF RESPONSES OF BOTH NINTH AND TENTH GRADE STUDENTS

	MUCH		SOME		LITTLE		NOT AT ALL	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
1. When you are in the library, how much of your time is spent reading books and magazines?	40	24.5	75	46.0	34	20.9	14	8.6
2. When you are in the library, how much difficulty do you have in finding necessary materials?	15	9.2	36	22.1	82	50.3	30	18.4
3. How much of your independent study time do you spend in the library?	37	22.7	76	46.7	40	24.5	10	6.1
4. Do you ask the librarians for help if problems arise concerning library materials?	25	15.3	59	36.2	42	25.8	57	22.7
5. How much do you use the library for research?	48	29.4	54	33.1	41	25.2	20	12.3
6. Do you enjoy using records, tapes, and film strips in the library?	19	11.7	35	20.2	32	19.6	79	48.5
7. How much time do you spend doing homework in the library?	11	6.8	31	19.0	39	25.9	82	50.3
8. When you are in the library, how much of your time is spent using the Library Language Labs?	13	8.0	27	16.6	28	17.2	95	58.2
9. Do you feel your library time is used wisely?	60	56.8	71	45.6	17	10.4	15	9.2
10. Do you feel the librarians know you as an individual and can give you individual help?	20	12.3	34	20.9	31	19.0	78	47.8

Total Number Responding - 163

Analysis of TABLE III

Twenty-three percent of the ninth and tenth grade students spent much of their independent study time in the library, while forty*seven percent (47%) spent some of their independent study time there.

Almost one half of the students felt that the librarians did not know them as individuals and could not give them individual help.

Over sixty percent (60%) found little use for, or an inadequate provision for the use of audio visusl materials or the library language laboratories.

More tenth than ninth grade students used the library for reading and for research, and enjoyed the audio visual materials. They also spent more time on homework, although more than three-fourths of the total group reported spending little or no time in this manner.

More ninth grade students than tenth made use of the library language laboratory.

TABLE IV

SUGGESTIONS LISTED BY STUDENTS ON LIBRARY OPINIONAIRE

What do you like most of all about the library?	9th Grade	10th Grade	Total
Magazine selection	8	16	24
Book selection	14	7	21
Comfortable chairs	18	7	25
Quiet atmosphere	8	6	14
Good research materials	5	9	14
Tapes	5	2	7
In your opinion, how can the library be improved?			
More seating capacity so more students can be accomodated	11	9	20
More books	8	4	12
More language lab facilities	9	1	10

Analysis of Table IV

Suggestions listed by students as to how to improve the library, and best liked aspects of the library are found in Table IV. The responses are listed by grades and the total number is in the third column.

As can be seen from the table, the responses range from a good magazine and book selection to increased seating capacity and more language lab facilities.

IV SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary: In this study a sample of student opinion and attitude toward the library was expressed in response to a series of questions answered by a randomly selected group of 163, 9th and 10th graders.

The responses to each statement were tallied and represented as a number and a percentage. The results of the data pointed out many ideas as can be seen from the tables and the accompanying discussions.

In general it was found that the majority of the students spend some of their independent study time in the library. Few students responded "not at all" when answering the question about amount of independent study time spent in the library. On the other hand, it was found that most of the students felt the librarians did not know them as individuals or could give them much individual help.

Students liked the library's selection of books and magazines, and prefered the comfortable and quiet study atmosphere. Many students would like to see a greater seating capacity in the library.

Conclusions

It would appear that students are using the library and enjoying its materials and facilities. However, students

felt a need for more facilities (materials, typewriters, seats, records, language labs, etc.)

Recommendations

1. More money is needed to purchase additional materials.
2. There is a need for increased adult help to allow more students in the library, and to give the librarians more of an opportunity to work with students.
3. Librarians should devote more time to orienting students about total library resources available.

APPENDIX

Advisor Room _____
Check: Male____ Female____
Check one of the spaces below depending on your courses.

____ I have Biology.
____ I have R Math, Earth-Space Science, and Foreign Language.
____ I have M Math, Earth-Space Science, and no Foreign Language.
____ I have some other combination of subjects.

The librarians are interested in knowing your opinions about the library. Please circle the word which best describes your opinion about each question.

	MUCH of the time	SOME of the time	LITTLE of the time	NOT AT ALL
1. When you are in the library, how much of your time is spent reading books and magazines?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
2. When you are in the library, how much difficulty do you have in finding necessary materials?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
3. How much of your independent study time do you spend in the library?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
4. Do you ask the librarians for help if problems arise concerning library materials?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
5. How much do you use the library for research?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
6. Do you enjoy using records, tapes, and film strips in the library?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
7. How much time do you spend doing homework in the library?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
8. When you are in the library, how much of your time is spent using the Library Language Labs?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
9. Do you feel your library time is used wisely?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
10. Do you feel the librarians know you as an individual and can give you individual help?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL

What do you like most of all about the library?

In your opinion, how can the library be improved?

Advisor Room _____
Check: Male____ Female____
Check one of the spaces below depending on your courses.

____ I have Biology.
____ I have R Math, Earth-Space Science, and Foreign Language.
____ I have M Math, Earth-Space Science, and no Foreign Language.
____ I have some other combination of subjects.

The librarians are interested in knowing your opinions about the library. Please circle the word which best describes your opinion about each question.

	MUCH of the time	SOME of the time	LITTLE of the time	NOT AT ALL
1. When you are in the library, how much of your time is spent reading books and magazines?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
2. When you are in the library, how much difficulty do you have in finding necessary materials?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
3. How much of your independent study time do you spend in the library?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
4. Do you ask the librarians for help if problems arise concerning library materials?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
5. How much do you use the library for research?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
6. Do you enjoy using records, tapes, and film strips in the library?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
7. How much time do you spend doing homework in the library?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
8. When you are in the library, how much of your time is spent using the Library Language Labs?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
9. Do you feel your library time is used wisely?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
10. Do you feel the librarians know you as an individual and can give you individual help?	MUCH	SOME	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL

What do you like most of all about the library?

In your opinion, how can the library be improved?

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